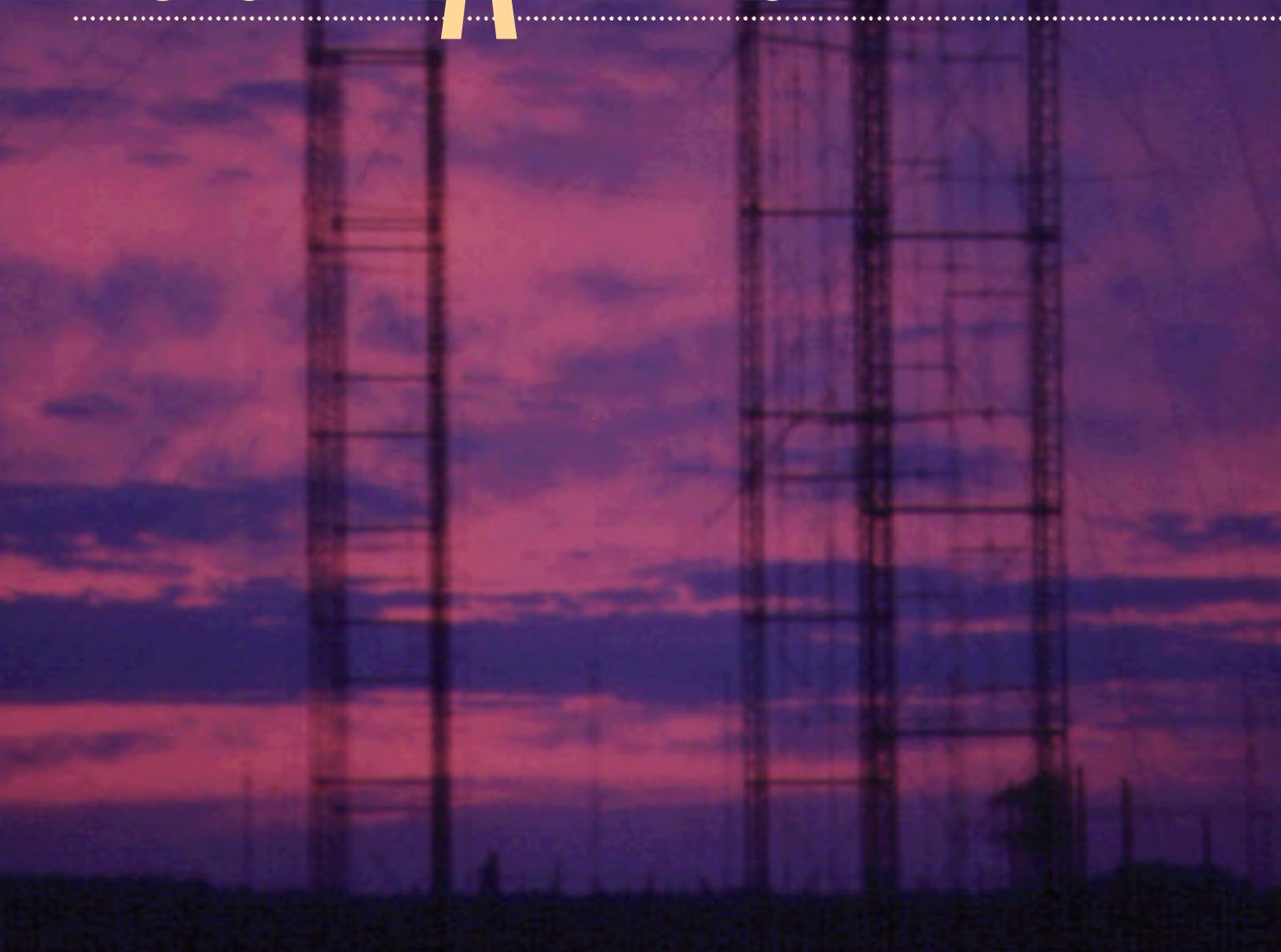


VOICE OF AMERICA



A Brief History



America's Voice on the International Airwaves

The Voice of America has carried United States, regional, and world news to listeners around the globe for more than 55 years. Founded less than three months after the United States entered World War II, the Voice has been a beacon of hope for those deprived of news.

William Harlan Hale opened the first VOA broadcast on February 24, 1942, with the words, "The Voice of America speaks. Today, America has been at war for 79 days. Daily, at this time, we shall speak to you about America and the war—the news may be good or bad—we shall tell you the truth."

That willingness to report the news accurately and objectively—no matter what the subject—has been a basic philosophy for every VOA broadcaster. That is why VOA reporters told the world about such stories as Vietnam, Watergate, and Iran-Contra. Its reporters have never shied away from the controversial. Instead, they have reported the news with the balance and objectivity that VOA listeners rely on. Present the facts of a news story and let the listeners decide.

Voice of America broadcasts originate from its headquarters building in Washington, D.C., where staff prepare and broadcast newscasts, features, English-teaching programs, and music shows in 52 languages to audiences around the globe. VOA's Washington newsroom follows stories 24-hours-a-day, and a

network of 40 VOA correspondents and 100 freelance reporters in major cities worldwide cover news events. Behind the scenes, engineers maintain broadcast equipment and provide the technical expertise to broadcast more than 700 hours of programming a week. A vast satellite network and a series of relay stations around the globe carry VOA programming to millions of listeners each day.

An estimated 83 million listeners tune in VOA's shortwave and medium wave broadcasts each week. A highly successful "affiliates" program has placed VOA-produced programming on more than 1,100 radio stations around the world. In 1994, VOA entered the world of television when it inaugurated "China Forum TV," a Chinese-language TV program beamed by satellite to viewers in the People's Republic of China.

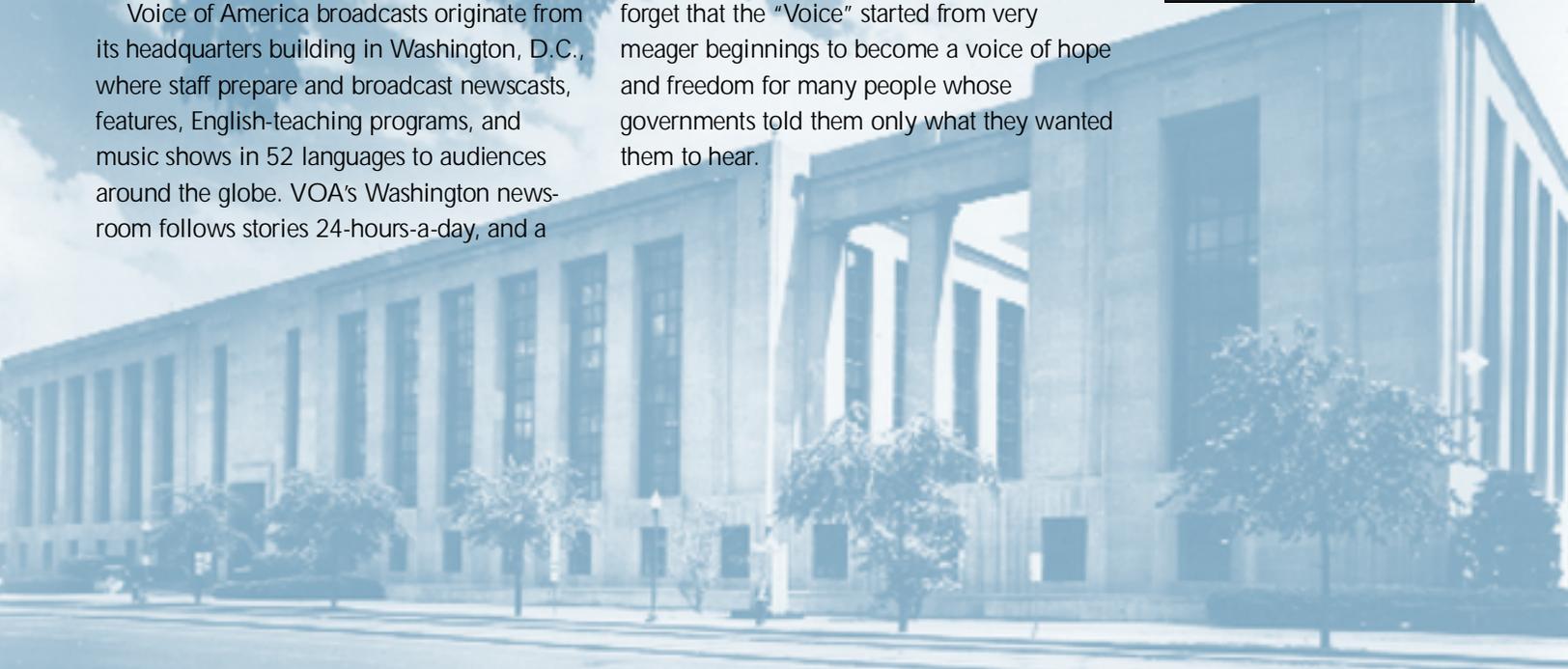
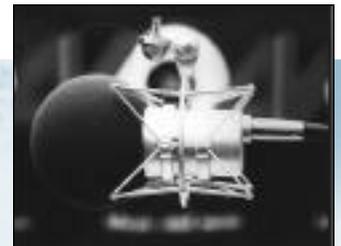
In 1996, a new television studio was completed, and VOA now simulcasts portions of some programs on radio and TV in such languages as Arabic, Bosnian, Chinese, English, Farsi, Serbian, and Spanish. VOA also puts audio and text on its Internet web site, and has begun an aggressive targeted e-mail program in countries where the web site is blocked.

As the Voice of America evolves into a 21st century international broadcaster utilizing all of the latest technologies, we must not forget that the "Voice" started from very meager beginnings to become a voice of hope and freedom for many people whose governments told them only what they wanted them to hear.

"...The news may be good or bad — we shall tell you the truth."

*— William Harlan Hale
1942*

Below, VOA headquarters at 330 Independence Avenue, SW in Washington, DC.



An American Voice Greeted The World

In 1939, the American playwright Robert Sherwood, who would become a speechwriter for President Franklin Roosevelt and later, the “father of the Voice of America,” predicted the impact of international broadcasting when he said:

“We are living in an age when communication has achieved fabulous importance. There is a new decisive force in the human race, more powerful than all the tyrants. It is the force of massed thought—thought which has been provoked by words, strongly spoken.”

In that year, the United States was the only world power without a government-sponsored international radio service. The Netherlands had been the first country to direct regularly-scheduled broadcasts beyond its own borders, inaugurating shortwave programming to the Far East in 1927. Seeing radio as an instrument of foreign policy, the

Soviet Union built a radio center in Moscow and was broadcasting in 50 languages and dialects by the end of 1930. Italy and Great Britain started their respective “empire services” in 1932, followed by France the next year. Nazi Germany built a massive network of transmitters in 1933 and began to beam hostile propaganda into Austria. The same year, Berlin started shortwave broadcasts to Latin America. Meanwhile, Japan was using radio to promote its national ambitions in the Far East.

Despite the efforts of many prominent figures, including New York Congressman Emmanuel Celler (who introduced bills in 1937, 1938, and 1939 to create a government station that could respond to German propaganda), the United States entered the 1940s with no plans to establish an official U.S. presence on the international airwaves.



Above, an early view of the VOA newsroom. Right, President Franklin D. Roosevelt.



The United States' shortwave resources consisted of just over a dozen low-powered, commercially owned and operated transmitters.

In 1941, several of these private transmitters were leased by the U.S. Coordinator for Inter-American Affairs (CIAA) to broadcast to Latin America. In mid-1941, President Roosevelt established the U.S. Foreign Information Service (FIS) and named speechwriter Sherwood as its first director. Driven by his belief in the power of ideas and the need to communicate America's views abroad, Sherwood rented space for his headquarters in New York City, recruited a staff of journalists, and began producing material for broadcast to Europe by the privately-owned American shortwave stations. Sherwood also talked with officials in London about the prospect for relaying FIS material over the facilities of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

With Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor and Germany's declaration of war against the United States, Sherwood moved into high gear. He asked John Houseman, the theatrical producer, author, and director, to take charge of FIS radio operations in New York City.

In December 1941, FIS made its first direct broadcasts to Asia from a studio in San Francisco. On February 24, 1942—just 79 days after the United States entered World War II—FIS beamed its first broadcast to Europe via BBC medium- and long-wave transmitters. Announcer William Harlan Hale opened the German-language program with the words: "The Voice of America speaks." The name took hold, and within a few months, it became the signature introduction on all Foreign Information Service broadcasts. From that moment, America had found its "voice" abroad.

Below, broadcaster operates equipment in the early days of VOA. Below left, American troops move toward Fountainbleau en route to Paris during World War II.



Let The Truth Be Told

From the beginning, VOA promised to tell its listeners the truth, regardless of whether the news was good or bad. As John Houseman said later, “In reality, we had little choice. Inevitably the news that the Voice of America would carry to the world in the first half of 1942 was almost all bad. As Japanese invasions followed one another with sickening regularity and the Nazi armies moved ever deeper into Russia and the Near East, we would have to report our reverses without weaseling. Only thus could we establish a reputation for honesty which we hoped would pay off on that distant but inevitable day when we would start reporting our own invasions and victories.”

By June 1942, VOA was growing rapidly and had a new organizational home—the Office of War Information (OWI). Twenty-three transmitters had been constructed and 27 language services were on the air when the Allied summit took place in Casablanca.



Above, Robert Bauer of VOA's German Service in 1942. Right, an early photo of John Houseman, VOA's first director.



The Post-War Blues

As the war drew to a close, however, many of VOA's broadcast services were reduced or eliminated. Then in late 1945, a State Department-appointed committee of private citizens chaired by Columbia University professor Arthur McMahon advised that the U.S. government could not be "indifferent to the ways in which our society is portrayed to other countries." Consequently, on December 31, 1945, VOA's and CIAA's broadcast services to Latin America were transferred to the Department of State, and Congress reluctantly appropriated funds for their continued operation in 1946 and 1947.

The reluctant support for international broadcasting disappeared in 1948. That year, members of Congress were heavily influenced by the escalation of the Cold War and hostile international broadcasting by the

Soviet Union and Soviet-controlled countries. The Berlin Blockade in 1948 confirmed the need for an American radio voice to the world. The enactment of the Smith-Mundt Act that year permanently established America's international informational and cultural exchange programs, a function VOA had already been carrying out for the past six years on its own.

Right, Senator H. Alexander Smith of New Jersey and Senator Karl E. Mundt of South Dakota. Below, listeners gather around the radio to hear an early Voice of America broadcast.



A Voice of Freedom Or of Fear

For the next two years, officials in the U.S. government debated the proper role of America's official international broadcasting service. Was it to report the news and reflect America, or was it to be used as an instrument of U.S. foreign policy and as a "weapon" against the Soviet Union? Congress saw it increasingly as fulfilling the latter role. With the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950, VOA added new language services and developed plans to construct transmitter complexes on both the east and west coasts of the United States.

In early 1953, Senator Joseph McCarthy chaired several weeks of hearings to investi-

gate programming and engineering practices at VOA and allegations that there were "subversives on the staff guilty of negligence favoring communism." The inquiry also examined management practices and plans to build new VOA transmitters. While the charges of subversive activity were never proven, widespread dismissals and resignations followed. In the wake of the congressional hearings, VOA's budget was reduced, the transmitter construction program was halted, and a number of language services were terminated.



Above, early photo of broadcasters from several VOA language services. Right, VOA correspondent on assignment during the Korean War.



A New Beginning

Even before the McCarthy hearings ended, however, a commission appointed by President Eisenhower had begun a review of U.S. foreign information activities, including the Voice of America. The commission, chaired by former President Herbert Hoover, concluded that these programs should be separated from the Department of State. On August 1, 1953, the United States Information Agency was established, and VOA became its single largest element. A year later, VOA moved its headquarters from New York City to its present site on Independence Avenue, SW, not far from the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, DC.

The crises in Hungary and Suez, the beginnings of American-Soviet summitry, and the dawning of the space age in the late 1950s and the early 1960s offered new opportunities for VOA to provide reliable and comprehensive reporting of world events. New and creative programming reflecting America was introduced. In 1959, VOA inaugurated Special English—slow-paced, simplified English broadcasts—to facilitate comprehension for millions of listeners.

Top right, on February 25, 1957, President Dwight D. Eisenhower spoke during a program titled, "Freedom to Listen." This was the first time a President of the United States had spoken directly to the peoples of the world over the U.S. government's international radio network. His speech was translated in Russian, French, Chinese, and Spanish as well as 38 other foreign languages. Below, satellite dish on roof of VOA headquarters building overlooking U.S. Capitol building.



The Stamp of Approval

In 1960, USIA Director George Allen endorsed the VOA Charter that had been drafted by VOA staff members between 1958 and 1959 to put in writing a formal statement of principles that would govern VOA broadcasts. The Charter said in part that:

(1) VOA will serve as a consistently reliable and authoritative source of news. VOA news will be accurate, objective, and comprehensive.

(2) VOA will represent America, not any single segment of American society, and will therefore present a balanced and comprehensive projection of significant American thought and institutions.

(3) VOA will present the policies of the United States clearly and effectively and will also present responsible discussions and opinion on these policies.

In July 1976, Representative Bella Abzug and Senator Charles Percy sponsored legislation making the VOA Charter Public Law 94-350. President Gerald Ford signed the legislation on July 12, 1976.



Left, USIA Director George V. Allen endorsed the VOA Charter, which states VOA's mission as an international broadcaster. Below, President Gerald Ford signed legislation for the VOA Charter (Public Law 94-350) on July 12, 1975.



Accepting The Challenge

A complete roster of the men and women who formed and nourished the Voice of America in its infancy, John Houseman recalled, “would reveal a collection of U.S.-born and foreign luminaries in their various fields—journalists, publishers, executives, actors, directors, economists, philosophers, poets, artists, musicians, educators, and financiers—of such celebrity in their past and future lives that it is almost impossible to believe they were all ever assembled under one roof.”

Twenty-five years later, former Director John Chancellor wrote, “There’s a peculiar sort of ramshackle excellence about the Voice of America. I came to work there with the standard conceptions and misconceptions of an outsider. I did think of it as a calm and dignified group of broadcasters. To my surprise, I found that I had misjudged the spirit—indeed, the clamor—that exists inside the

Voice. It was like walking into a stately building to find the residents holding up the walls with broomsticks while carrying on a terrific argument. There is a fine, antic sense of madness about the place and after a year and a half of taking my turn at the broomstick, I view the Voice and its employees with a feeling of pride and affection... .” He continued, “they are, to a remarkable degree, people of spirit and intelligence, whose passion is to represent the United States in the best possible manner.”



Clockwise, long-time VOA jazz presenter Willis Conover interviews Irving Berlin. Conover and Louis Armstrong talk during VOA’s “Music USA.” Actress Helen Hayes answers questions during early VOA program “Have You a Question?” John Chancellor was VOA director from 1965 to 1967.



“...they are, to a remarkable degree, people of spirit and intelligence, whose passion is to represent the United States in the best possible manner.”

— Director John Chancellor



Getting Down to Business

In the 1960s and 1970s, VOA took giant steps toward becoming the world's leading international broadcaster. During the tenure of Director Henry Loomis from 1958 to 1965, the VOA Charter was written, and technical facilities and programming for every part of the world were expanded.

When NBC newsman John Chancellor took up the reins in 1965, he promised that VOA broadcasts "would swing a little." VOA began to produce livelier and more creative programs in both English and foreign language broadcasts. News-gathering resources were increased, making possible more live, on-the-scene reporting. In 1969, when Neil Armstrong set foot on the moon, nearly 800 million people were tuned to the Voice or to the hundreds of stations around the world that were relaying VOA's live coverage. In

1977, VOA became the first international broadcaster to use a full-time satellite circuit to deliver programming from its own studios to an overseas relay station—in this case, the VOA Arabic programs from Washington to the Voice transmitters on the Greek island of Rhodes.

During Kenneth Giddens' tenure as director from 1969 to 1977, the longest of any VOA director, VOA dramatically enhanced its credibility through its straightforward reporting of two events that traumatized the nation—the war in Vietnam and the constitutional crises posed by Watergate. VOA's reporting not only drew praise from the American press, but also from listeners in every part of the world, as tens of thousands wrote to express their admiration for VOA's comprehensive and objective coverage.



Above, VOA correspondent interviews a worker who helped in the construction of a scientific base on an ice flow near the North Pole. Right, in warmer climes, a VOA correspondent conducts an interview near Cairo, Egypt.



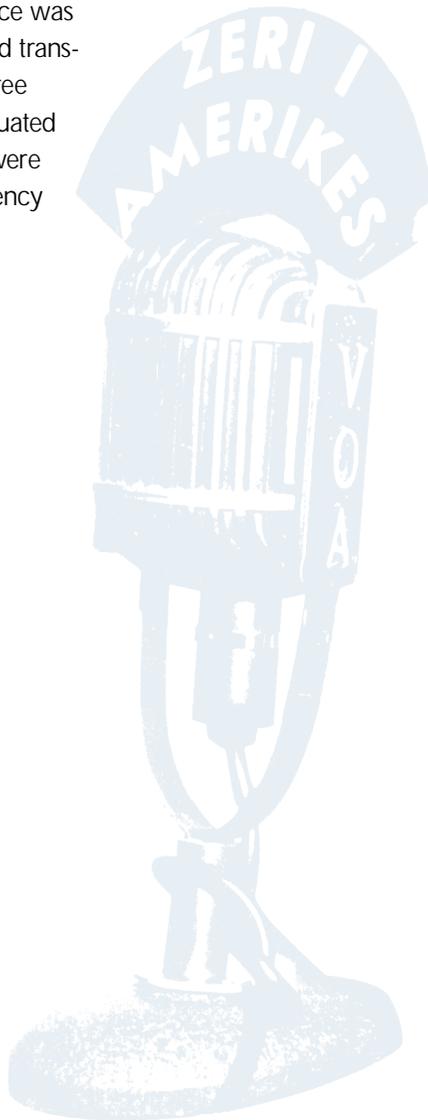
The cessation of Soviet and Soviet-bloc jamming, which took place throughout the Cold War; an expanding audience in China; and the introduction of new and expanded programming for listeners in Iran, Afghanistan, and Poland were opening up vast new audiences for VOA. As Giddens had predicted, however, VOA's potential to reach an ever-increasing number of the world's citizens was being handicapped by insufficient resources. As the 1970s came to an end, the gap between VOA's extensive programming requirements and the level of funding had led to serious deficiencies in both personnel and facilities. Almost every language service was short-staffed. It was not unusual to find translator-announcers working two and three weeks without a day off. VOA's antiquated studios and master control complex were breaking down with increasing frequency

despite the best efforts of a dedicated technical staff skilled in fabricating spare parts no longer manufactured.

Listeners in many parts of the world were complaining that VOA signals sounded weak and distorted. By the early 1980s, many VOA transmitters were more than 30 years old and some were over 40. Few were capable of producing the 500,000-watt signals being generated by VOA's leading competitors. And the competition itself was increasing. In the mid-1980s, some 160 stations were crowding the international spectrum with upwards of 25,000 hours of programming a week.



*VOA Director Kenneth Giddens
1969 - 1977*



No Better Time Than the Present

In 1983, VOA launched a \$1.3 billion program to rebuild and modernize VOA programming and technical capabilities.

However, due to government-wide budget constraints at the time, VOA was forced to reduce the funds devoted to this project. Despite less funding, major new and upgraded radio transmission facilities were completed in Botswana, Morocco, Thailand, Kuwait, and São Tomé over the next several years. In Washington, 19 “state-of-the-art” studios were constructed, a new Master Control complex was installed, and a Network Control Center was built to coordinate and direct VOA’s domestic and overseas relay transmitter stations.

In 1985, Congress established a special service to Cuba known as Radio Martí, which broadcasts news of that country. Although Radio Martí followed VOA editorial guidelines, it operated separately from the Voice and had its own Washington studios. A television service, TV Martí went on the air in

1990, and in 1996, Radio and TV Martí began to transfer their operations to Miami, a move which would be completed by 1998.

VOA Mandarin and Cantonese broadcasts were increased in 1989 to bring hundreds of millions of Chinese listeners accurate reports of the pro-democracy movement that filled Beijing’s Tiananmen Square and the streets of dozens of Chinese cities. In the fall and winter, VOA reported the historic changes that were sweeping Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union—changes that some have ascribed, at least in part, to the Voice and other western international broadcasters. With the arrival of the 1990s, VOA Russian covered the attempted August 1991 coup against then Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and the dissolution of the Soviet Union at the end of the same year.

Following the formation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (C.I.S.) and the collapse of communist governments throughout Eastern Europe, VOA continued a daily flow of news and information to the

Below, steerable beam antennas can fine tune their transmission qualities for optimum broadcasts. Inset, VOA Master Control coordinates all broadcast signals before they are sent by satellite to relay stations around the world.



region. All of these newly formed governments had been trying, with varying degrees of success, to embrace democracy and its underlying principles. East European leaders such as the Czech Republic's Václav Havel asked the West to help them understand how to establish the infrastructure of democratic institutions. VOA responded with programming designed to explain how democracy works in the West and how market economies function.

While there was a great need to maintain VOA broadcasts to the C.I.S. and Eastern Europe, the Voice of America continued to provide news and information to people in other parts of the world. On March 25, 1991, VOA launched a 15-minute Tibetan program, which the Chinese government promptly started to jam. Kurdish-language broadcasts to listeners in Iraq and Iran went on the air on April 25, 1992.

In response to the breakup of the former Yugoslavia into several republics in 1991, VOA divided its Yugoslav Service into two separate language services—Croatian and Serbian—on February 21, 1993. Both services expanded their broadcast hours to the region and, along with VOA's Slovene Service, maintained a constant flow of news and information to listeners in the Balkans. A Bosnian Service was added in 1996.

VOA also established a network of Croatian and Serbian local radio stations to carry VOA-produced programming. On October 1, 1996, Radio 101 FM began to carry VOA Croatian, making it the first station in Zagreb to include programming from an international broadcaster in its schedule. That same year, VOA Serbian increased its daily broadcasts to two and a half hours when it added a 30-minute, medium-wave broadcast.

A live 15-minute VOA Bosnian "feed" service, which was transmitted to local radio stations via satellite, was established on April

22, 1996. VOA later increased the Bosnian-language program to 30 minutes and launched direct broadcasts in Bosnia late the same year.

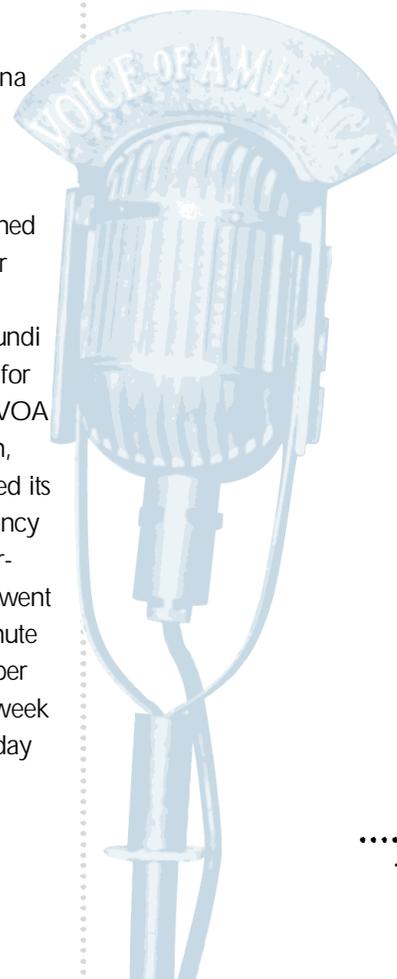
When the Milosevic government in Belgrade banned broadcasts of Radio B-92 and other independent local radio stations on December 3, 1996, VOA rebroadcast B-92 reporter newscasts from Belgrade. Realizing that it could not stifle the flow of information, the Milosevic government allowed Radio B-92 to resume broadcasts two days later on December 5. On the same day that B-92 resumed its broadcasts, VOA began pilot simulcasts on radio and TV of its 11:30 p.m. (Serbian local time) newscast. The program is relayed by Serbian independent TV stations with a potential viewership of four million.

On July 15, 1996, the Voice of America added broadcasts in Afan Oromo and Trigrigna—its 49th and 50th languages—for listeners in Eritrea and Ethiopia. Tigrigna is one of the working languages of the independent nation of Eritrea, and Afan Oromo is spoken by the largest ethnic group in Ethiopia. The two languages joined VOA Amharic, which has been on the air since 1982.

On the same day, VOA introduced Kirundi and Kinyarwanda language programming for listeners in conflict-ridden Central Africa. VOA which was already broadcasting in English, French, and Swahili to the region, increased its audience. With funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development, the two services—VOA's 51st and 52nd languages—went on the air on July 15, 1996, with a 30-minute weekday program. The following November they expanded the show to seven days a week and one month later increased their Saturday and Sunday programs to one hour.



Producers work behind the scenes to direct all VOA programming.





RADIO FREE EUROPE
RADIO LIBERTY



VOA also established refugee hotlines in both the Balkans and Central Africa in 1996. VOA Serbian and Croatian launched their hotline on August 14, and Kirundi and Kinyarwanda on November 30. VOA language broadcasts to both regions offered listeners a means through which they could be reunited with friends and family separated by war and personal hardship.

When citizens in Tirana and other Albanian cities protested the proliferation of illegal financial schemes in February 1997, VOA Albanian broadcasts were a prime source of news for the people of that country. By March 1997, the crisis had deteriorated into civil conflict, and the Albanian government cut off VOA Albanian program feeds to local affiliate stations in Tirana, Elbasan, Gjirokaster, Shkoder, and Kukes for a short time. VOA expanded its broadcast hours both on shortwave and medium wave at the height of the crisis to provide the maximum news possible to the people of Albania.

In 1997, an agreement signed between the International Broadcasting Bureau and Asia

Satellite Telecommunications Company (AsiaSat) gave the Voice of America and other U.S. government civilian international broadcasters access to AsiaSat 2, a satellite with a footprint reaching more than 60 percent of the world's population. Now, by satellite, VOA, WORLDNET Television and Film Service, Radio Free Asia, and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, provide 24-hour, seven-day-a-week service to listeners and viewers in more than 53 countries in Asia, the Middle East, Australia, and much of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Affiliated stations, along with listeners and viewers using small satellite dishes, are able to receive stereo radio and television programming.

The Changing Face of International Broadcasting in the 1990s

Starting in 1990, all U.S. government international broadcasting services began to work more closely together. That year the U.S. Information Agency, VOA's parent agency, established the Bureau of Broadcasting to consolidate its three broadcasting services—the Voice of America, WORLDNET Television and Film Service, and Radio and TV Martí—into one cohesive and efficient element, supported by a single Office of Engineering and Technical Operations.

In 1991, the Bureau created the Office of Affiliate Relations and Audience Analysis (later renamed the Office of Affiliate Relations and Media Training in 1996) to establish and maintain a network of “affiliated” radio and

TV stations around the globe that would broadcast VOA and WORLDNET produced programs. Today, more than 1,100 radio and TV stations receive programming through the Office of Affiliate Relations.

The Office of Business Development was established in 1994 to work with the private sector on a wide range of ventures, including the possible privatization of VOA language services, procurement of corporate underwriting for broadcasts, co-productions with major broadcast networks, and fundraising from various foundations. (These initiatives benefit not only VOA, but also WORLDNET Television and Film Service and Radio and TV Martí.) From 1994 through 1996, the office raised \$4 million.

Below, a VOA/WORLDNET television broadcast.



U.S. government international broadcasting was consolidated even further when President Clinton signed the International Broadcasting Act (Public Law 103-236) on April 30, 1994. The legislation established the International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB) within the U.S. Information Agency (USIA) and created a Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) with oversight authority over all civilian U.S. government international broadcasting. The Voice of America, WORLDNET Television and Film Service, and Radio and TV Martí—the three federally-funded services of the former Bureau of Broadcasting—comprise IBB. The bipartisan BBG includes the USIA Director (ex officio) and eight members appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The first Broadcasting Board of Governors was sworn in on August 11, 1995.

The BBG oversees VOA, the WORLDNET Television Service, and Radio and TV Martí,

as well as two grantee international broadcast services—Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) and Radio Free Asia (RFA). (RFA was established under the 1994 legislation.) RFE/RL and RFA are private, non-profit corporations that receive annual congressionally-appropriated grants from the Broadcasting Board of Governors.

The International Broadcasting Act also centralized the Office of Engineering and Technical Operations within IBB, making it responsible for planning and maintaining broadcast facilities for VOA, WORLDNET, and Radio and TV Martí as well as Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and Radio Free Asia. Transmitter sites that had formerly broadcast RFE/RL programs to the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe were integrated into a single network operated by IBB Engineering.

Innovations for a New Century

Although historically an international radio broadcaster, VOA began to simulcast programs on radio and TV in the mid-1990s. The first, "China Forum TV," aired on September 18, 1994. This one-hour Mandarin telecast was beamed into the People's Republic of China by satellite. Two years later, VOA's Arabic Branch teamed up with WORLDNET Television Service and the Middle East Broadcasting Centre (MBC) in London to launch "Dialogue With the West." The success of these two programs encouraged VOA, with the assistance of WORLDNET Television, to build a new TV studio at its headquarters. The first program, a Farsi simulcast, was telecast on October 18, 1996. Since the first Farsi program, VOA has aired simulcasts in Arabic, Bosnian, English, Farsi, Mandarin, Serbian, and Spanish; VOA Russian, Thai, and Turkish services prerecord programs for local stations in those countries.

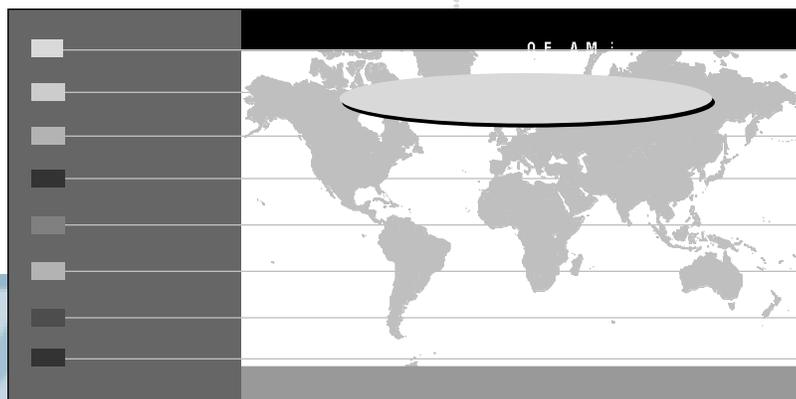
In 1994, the Voice of America became the first international broadcaster to offer material on the Internet. Initially, the site offered information through two simple text-based formats, and in 1996, VOA added a Web Page.

Today, the site offers the VOA News and English Broadcasts newswire, VOA program schedules, frequency lists, digitized audio from many VOA language programs, and Chinese and Croatian program scripts with additional languages to follow.

With the approach of the next century, VOA will continue to examine new technologies and refine its programming to reflect the needs of its listeners. One goal remains, however, for the hundreds of professionals who make up the Voice of America—to deliver comprehensive, timely, truthful information. The VOA will continue to broadcast the sounds of freedom and serve as a beacon of hope for its millions of listeners around the world.



Above, VOA Farsi broadcaster prepares to go on the air. Farsi, which is broadcast to Iran, was the first language service to use the new Studio 47. Below left, VOA Chinese-language television program to China. Below, a VOA Internet web page with links to other information about VOA language services.



Voice of America Directors

The Voice of America's first organizational home was the U.S. Foreign Information Service, which later became the overseas branch of the Office of War Information. FIS' first director was Robert E. Sherwood; Joseph Barnes was his deputy and chief of the New York Office.

Below is a list of VOA directors and selected photos of those who have guided VOA over the years.

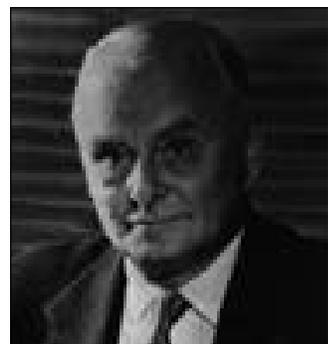
John Houseman	February 1942 – July 1943
Louis G. Cowan	August 1943 – August 1945
John Ogilvie	September 1945 – January 1946
Charles Thayer	January 1948 – October 1949
Foy David Kohler	October 1949 – September 1952
Alfred Morton	October 1952 – April 1953
Leonard Erikson	July 1953 – April 1954
John R. Poppele	May 1954 – July 1956
Robert E. Button	July 1956 – July 1958
Henry Loomis	July 1958 – March 1965
John Chancellor	August 1965 – June 1967
John Charles Daly	September 1967 – June 1968
Kenneth R. Giddens	September 1969 – April 1977
R. Peter Straus	July 1977 – October 1979
Mary Bitterman	March 1980 – January 1981
James Conkling	August 1981 – March 1982
John Hughes	March 1982 – August 1982
Kenneth Tomlinson	December 1982 – September 1984
Gene Pell	June 1985 – October 1985
Richard W. Carlson	November 1986 – September 1991
Charles Untermeyer	September 1991 – January 1993
Geoffrey Cowan	March 1994 – November 1996
Evelyn S. Lieberman	March 1997 – present



John Houseman



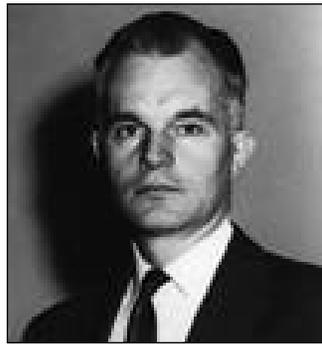
Foy David Kohler



Alfred Morton



John R. Poppele



Robert E. Button



Henry Loomis



John Charles Daly



Kenneth R. Giddens



R. Peter Straus



Mary Bitterman



Kenneth Tomlinson



Richard W. Carlson



Charles Untermeyer



Geoffrey Cowan



Evelyn S. Lieberman

Voice of America Language Services



Today, VOA broadcasts in 52 languages to listeners in every world region. Other language programs are produced for transmission via satellite to foreign stations. Languages that pre-date February 1942 began under the Coordinator for Inter-American Affairs and the Foreign Information Service.

* indicates a language currently on VOA's broadcast schedule.

** indicates a VOA feed service, which provides VOA-produced programming to local radio stations

Afan Oromo* 1996 to present	Bulgarian* 1942 to present	Dutch 1944 to 1945	Gujarati 1956 to 1958
Afrikaans 1942 to 1949	Burmese* 1943 to 1945; 1951 to present	English* 1942 to present	Hakka 1951 to 1954
Albanian* 1943 to 1945; 1951 to present	Byelorussian 1956 to 1957	Estonian* 1951 to present	Hausa* 1979 to present
Amharic* 1982 to present	Cambodian See Khmer	Farsi* 1942 to 1945; 1949 to 1960; 1964 to 1966 (radio feed service); 1979 to present	Hebrew 1951 to 1953
Amoy 1941 to 1945; 1951 to 1963	Cantonese* 1941 to 1945; 1949 to 1963; 1987 to present	Finnish 1942 to 1945; 1951 to 1953	Hindi* 1951 to 1953 1954 to present
Annamese See Vietnamese	Chinese See Mandarin and Cantonese	Flemish 1942 to 1945	Hungarian* 1942 to present
Arabic* 1942 to 1945; 1950 to present	Creole* 1987 to present	French* (to Africa) 1942 to 1961	Icelandic 1944
Armenian* 1951 to present	Croatian* 1943 to present	Georgian* 1951 to present	Indonesian* 1942 to present
Azerbaijani* 1951 to 1953; 1982 to present	Czech* 1942 to present	German 1942 to 1960; 1991 to 1993	Italian 1942 to 1945; 1951 to 1957
Bangla* 1958 to present	Danish 1942 to 1945	Greek* 1942 to present	Japanese 1942 to 1945; 1951 to 1962
Bosnian* 1996 to present	Dari* 1980 to present		Javanese See Indonesian

Khmer*
1955 to 1957;
1962 to present

Kirundi*
1996 to present

Kinyarwanda*
1996 to present

Korean*
1942 to present

Kurdish *
1992 to present

Lao*
1962 to present

Latvian*
1951 to present

Lithuanian*
1951 to present

Malayan
1951 to 1955

Malayalam
1956 to 1961

Mandarin*
1941 to present

Nepali
1992 to 1993

Norwegian
1942 to 1945

Pashto*
1982 to present

Persian
See Farsi

Polish*
1942 to present

Portuguese*
(to Africa)
1976 to present

Portuguese*
(to Latin America)
1941 to 1945;
1946 to 1948
(contracted private
radio stations to
produce and
transmit programs to
Latin America; 1961
to present)

Portuguese
(to Portugal)
1942 to 1945;
1951 to 1953;
1976 to 1987;
1987 to 1993
(VOA produced
programs for
placement on local
radio stations)

Romanian*
1942 to present

Russian*
1947 to present

Serbian*
1943 to present

Shanghai (Wu)
1944 to 1946

Slovak*
1942 to present

Slovene*
1944 to end of
World War II;
1949 to present

Somali
1992 to 1995

Spanish*
(to Latin America)
1941 to 1945;
1946 to 1948;
1953 to 1956
(VOA contracted
private radio stations
to produce and
transmit programs
for Latin America);
1961 to present

Spanish*
(Radio Marti)
1985 to present

Spanish (to Spain)
1942 to 1955;
1955 to 1993
(VOA provided
placement
programming for
local Spanish radio
stations)

Swahili*
1962 to present

Swatow
1951 to 1953

Swedish
1943 to 1945

Tagalog
1941 to 1946

Tamil
1954 to 1970

Tatar
1951 to 1953

Telegu
1956 to 1958

Thai**
1942 to 1958;
1962 to 1988;
1988 to present

Tibetan*
During 1950s on
VOAMandarin
broadcasts;
1991 to present

Tigrigna*
1996 to present

Turkish*
1942 to 1945;
1948 to present

Ukrainian*
1949 to present

Urdu*
1951 to 1953;
1954 to present

Uzbek*
1958; 1972
to present

Vietnamese*
1943 to 1946;
1951 to present

Wu
See Shanghai



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